



News Release

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SBA RECOGNIZES MADISON RESIDENT FOR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT'S SMALL BUSINESSES

Hartford – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named **Dennis Brown**, Counselor, Connecticut Community Investment Corp. (CTCIC) 2005 Financial Services Champion of the Year.

Dennis Brown exemplifies the commitment to small business and to his community that is sought after in the selection of a Financial Services Champion,” said Charles E. Summers, Jr., New England Regional Administrator for the SBA. “Connecticut small businesses are much better off because of Dennis Brown’s efforts and dedication.”

Since Dennis Brown joined the Connecticut Community Investment Corporation in 2000 he has been committed to the small business community, which has been shown by the endless hours, he has donated to speaking engagements, teaching and counseling of small business owners. Dennis provides free seminars and classes on business finance and management issues to audiences throughout the State of Connecticut. He also offers free credit counseling and business plan review to entrepreneurs before their business plans are presented to lenders.

Dennis is co-founder and co-chair for a statewide Microenterprise Resource Group that leverages and supports the work of small business service providers across the state. Through Dennis’ effort the Microenterprise Resource Group is putting a face on the thousands of small businesses growing from part time endeavors to full time successes. In addition the Resource Group serves as a clearing house for economic development professionals throughout the state working in support of small businesses in their infancy.

Dennis is a strong advocate for business and has testified and advocated on behalf of the distinct needs of Microenterprise owners before State Legislative Committees in Hartford. He has also visited every Connecticut Representative and Senator’s office in an effort to educate them on the unique needs specific to Microenterprise concerns. He is also highly involved in the Connecticut Main Street Program providing small businesses access to capital and technical assistance utilizing the SBA Microloan Program. Dennis also involved in the Minority Professional Businessman’s Association and is working with the Connecticut Rural Development to bring loan funds and technical assistance to the less populated corners of the state.

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As a lifelong small business advocate, Dennis enjoys helping entrepreneurs through teaching; counseling and helping business people find success. He is known for providing sound and practical advice and being a dependable source of ongoing assistance for business owners facing a challenge. Dennis also teaches at monthly SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) workshops on business plans as a tool for successful business and works with many SCORE chapters throughout the state.

Dennis is also active in his community working at two inner-city homeless shelters run by Christian Community Action since 1988. He is Chairman of the Adopt-an-Apartment program working to get churches, businesses, schools, and other organizations to join together in sponsoring apartments for families in transition prior to placement in permanent housing. Dennis also works heavily with the food pantry for homeless shelters and the accompanying inner-city neighborhoods. Since the early 90's Dennis and his wife have stepped forward to serve youth in distress as foster parents. Dennis and wife Louise have four sons and a grand daughter.

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Connecticut award recipients will be honored at an awards reception on Thursday May 19, 2005. If you would like more information on the reception or next year's nominations contact (860) 240-4700 or visit www.sba.gov/ct.

Small businesses have been essential to sustaining our nation's and our state's economic health. Entrepreneurs and advocates play a vital role in the ongoing business development efforts, and their accomplishments are worthy of recognition. The nomination process begins in September of each year and is coordinated by your local SBA office.